(ii) Providing quality medicare to ESM and their dependents and comprehensive coverage for diseases through Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS);

(iii) Resettlement/rehabilitation of ESM and their dependents through the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR); and

(iv) Looking after the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families through the Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) in liaison with Rajya Sainik Boards (RSBs)/Zila Sainik Board (ZSBs) and strengthening these Boards to make them more effective.

The number of Defence pensioners including Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR)/Commissioned Officers is approximately 17.00 lakhs.

There are 10.20 lakh ESM who are entitled for medical benefits under ECHS through 227 polyclinics and 1234 empanelled private healthcare facilities.

There are various training, employment entrepreneurship and self employment schemes for welfare and resettlement of Ex-servicemen. Ex-servicemen officers are trained at prestigious Institutes like IIT, IIM etc. to enable them to take up gainful employment in private sector. A total of 28280 Ex-servicemen have been imparted skills training in various fields during the year 2009. Total of 48208 Ex-servicemen have gained employment as on 30th November, 2009.

Non playing of the Ranji Trophy match by the Services team in Sri Nagar

2970. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government decided against Services cricket team playing Ranji Trophy tournament match this year against the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association team scheduled in November, 2009 in Sri Nagar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the authority which took the decision for not playing the cricket match in Sri Nagar;

(c) whether the decision was revised subsequently; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the authority which revised it?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A decision was taken by the President, Services Sports Control Board not to participate in the Ranji Trophy tournament match this year against the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association team scheduled at Sri Nagar in November, 2009. This was based on the recommendations of 15 Corps as endorsed by Head Quarter Northern Command.

(c) and (d) Subsequently, the earlier decision was reviewed and revised in the overall interest of the Game and the sporting career of the players.